

Date 11 August 2026
Our Ref 11736

Enquiries to Richard Mutch
Extension 35687
Direct Line 0131 465 5687
loth.freedomofinformation@nhs.scot
richard.mutch@nhs.scot

Dear

FREEDOM OF INFORMATION – CATARACT PATIENTS

I write in response to your request for information in relation to cataract patients.

Question:

- For each independent provider and each service area in the tables below, please provide (a) the number of procedures / episodes delivered and (b) the value (£) paid or contracted by the Board, for each of the following financial years. In every case the value (£) should be the total amount per service, inclusive of both outpatient fees and surgical fees (i.e. the full cost of the pathway for that service, not the surgical episode alone). Within cataract, I have separated “Cataract Surgery” (the surgical/theatre procedure itself) from “Cataract Outpatient” (clinic / consulting-room activity such as pre-operative assessment, biometry, and post-operative review) so that operating activity can be distinguished from clinic-room care:

Answer:

Please see enclosed pdf to answer your request.

I hope the information provided helps with your request.

If you are unhappy with our response to your request, you do have the right to request us to review it. Your request should be made within 40 working days of receipt of this letter, and we will reply within 20 working days of receipt. If our decision is unchanged following a review and you remain dissatisfied with this, you then have the right to make a formal complaint to the Scottish Information Commissioner within 6 months of receipt of our review response. You can do this by using the Scottish Information Commissioner's Office online appeals service at www.itspublicknowledge.info/Appeal. If you remain dissatisfied with the Commissioner's response you then have the option to appeal to the Court of Session on a point of law.

If you require a review of our decision to be carried out, please write to the FOI Reviewer at the email address at the head of this letter. The review will be undertaken by a Reviewer who was not involved in the original decision-making process.

FOI responses (subject to redaction of personal information) may appear on NHS Lothian's Freedom of Information website at: <https://org.nhsllothian.scot/FOI/Pages/default.aspx>

Yours sincerely

ALISON MACDONALD
Executive Director, Nursing
Cc: Chief Executive

Freedom of Information Request

Independent Provider Ophthalmology Services

To: NHS Lothian — Freedom of Information Officer

From: Colin Berry (individual requester) — NI No. JN184750C

Date: 17 July 2026

Legislation: Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002

Dear Freedom of Information Officer,

I am writing to request the following information under the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002.

Scope

My request concerns ophthalmology services commissioned, referred or otherwise funded by your Health Board and delivered by independent (non-NHS) providers. Where a provider not named below has delivered NHS-funded ophthalmology work for your Board, please include them and identify them by name. Cataract Surgery is my lead / primary interest; please prioritise this element if any part of the request must be handled separately.

Information requested

For each independent provider and each service area in the tables below, please provide (a) the number of procedures / episodes delivered and (b) the value (£) paid or contracted by the Board, for each of the following financial years. In every case the value (£) should be the total amount per service, inclusive of both outpatient fees and surgical fees (i.e. the full cost of the pathway for that service, not the surgical episode alone). Within cataract, I have separated “Cataract Surgery” (the surgical/theatre procedure itself) from “Cataract Outpatient” (clinic / consulting-room activity such as pre-operative assessment, biometry, and post-operative review) so that operating activity can be distinguished from clinic-room care:

Financial Year 2022/23

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Optical Express	Cataract Surgery	359	£448 750
	Cataract Outpatient	359	Cost included in IP cost
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Vision Scotland	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Clarity (Clarity Eye Clinic)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Spire Healthcare	Cataract Surgery	47	£70 500
	Cataract Outpatient	83	£17 430
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Circle Health Group — Ross Hall Hospital (Glasgow)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Circle Health Group — Kings Park Hospital (Stirling)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

SpaMedica	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Other independent provider (please name) Nuffield Health Edinburgh Hospital	Cataract Surgery	115	£133 700
	Cataract Outpatient	128	£21 760
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Financial Year 2023/24

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Optical Express	Cataract Surgery	667	£833 750
	Cataract Outpatient	667	Cost included in IP cost
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Vision Scotland	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Clarity (Clarity Eye Clinic)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Spire Healthcare	Cataract Surgery	619	£945 000
	Cataract Outpatient	580	£121 590
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Circle Health Group — Ross Hall Hospital (Glasgow)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Circle Health Group — Kings Park Hospital (Stirling)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

SpaMedica	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Other independent provider (please name) Nuffield Health Edinburgh Hospital	Cataract Surgery	520	£618 800
	Cataract Outpatient	598	£100 955
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Financial Year 2024/25

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Optical Express	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Vision Scotland	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Clarity (Clarity Eye Clinic)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Spire Healthcare	Cataract Surgery	314	£471 000
	Cataract Outpatient	91	£18 030
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Circle Health Group — Ross Hall Hospital (Glasgow)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Circle Health Group — Kings Park Hospital (Stirling)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

SpaMedica	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Other independent provider (please name) Nuffield Health Edinburgh Hospital	Cataract Surgery	91	£105 910
	Cataract Outpatient	6	£680
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Financial Year 2025/26 (to date)

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Optical Express	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Vision Scotland	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Clarity (Clarity Eye Clinic)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Spire Healthcare	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Circle Health Group — Ross Hall Hospital (Glasgow)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Provider	Service area	No. of procedures / episodes	Value (£) — incl. outpatient + surgical fees
Circle Health Group — Kings Park Hospital (Stirling)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

SpaMedica	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Other independent provider (please name)	Cataract Surgery		
	Cataract Outpatient		
	YAG Capsulotomy		
	Glaucoma		
	Vitreoretinal		
	Oculoplastic		

Clarifications

1. For procedure numbers, please state whether figures represent completed procedures, episodes of care, or referrals, and the basis used.
2. “Cataract Surgery” refers to the surgical procedure performed in theatre (e.g. phacoemulsification with intraocular lens implant). “Cataract Outpatient” refers to non-surgical clinic / consulting-room activity on the cataract pathway — for example pre-operative assessment, biometry / ocular measurements, and post-operative review. Please report the two separately so that theatre procedures can be distinguished from clinic-room care. If your Board does not record them separately, please say so and provide the combined figure.
3. For value, the figure for each service must be inclusive of both outpatient fees and surgical fees combined. Where possible, please also state the outpatient and surgical components separately for each service. Please indicate whether figures are actual spend (invoiced / paid) or contracted / agreed values, and specify which.
4. Please indicate whether each arrangement was a formal contract, framework agreement, spot purchase, or waiting-list initiative.
5. If the information is held in a different format to the tables above, please supply it in whatever structured format you hold it.

Format & cost

Please respond electronically (Excel / CSV preferred for numerical data). If any part of this request is likely to exceed the cost limit, please contact me to refine it rather than refusing it outright, and prioritise the Cataract Surgery element. If information is withheld under an exemption, please cite the specific exemption and release the remaining information. I look forward to your response within the statutory 20 working days.

Yours faithfully,

Colin Berry

NI No. JN184750C

Email Address for Correspondence: patientinterests@gmail.com ·